

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing device for an endoscope, wherein an excitation light shielding filter, effective for shielding excitation light when in a fluorescence image mode and for transmitting light other than a part of blue wavelength band, a wavelength band filter for shielding at least a part of the blue wavelength band is disposed in front of an image pickup element built into the endoscope, for image processing the signal output outputted by said image pickup element, and generating color image signals while switching between a normal-light image mode using white light and the fluorescence image mode including fluorescence information, the device comprising:

a first white balance section that performs gain adjustment so that the output intensity of each of red, green and blue signals may be of a constant value, and adjusts the gain of a prescribed color signal of the color image signals when in the normal-light image mode;

a second white balance setting section that stores the gain adjustment values of the red, green and blue signals in the white balance section, and attenuates the blue gain to a prescribed value;

a parameter setting section that obtains a mode signal from a control section and determines whether to output a parameter for a fluorescence image or a parameter for a normal-light image to output a parameter suited to the mode; and

a matrix section that applies prescribed matrix calculations to the red, green and blue signals subjected to the gain adjustment in the first white balance section using a parameter suited to the mode outputted by the parameter setting section to generate the fluorescence image signal or the normal-light image signal.

a signal generator that generates color image signals while switching between a normal-light image mode using white light and a first filter and a fluorescence image mode using a second filter and including fluorescence information; and

a gain adjuster that adjusts the gain of a prescribed color signal of said color image signals.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The image processing device for an endoscope according to claim 1, comprising a further signal generator which generates a blue signal using a prescribed color signal of said color image signals, when in said normal-light image mode.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The image processing device for an endoscope according to claim 1, wherein said ~~gain-adjustor~~ first white balance section attenuates the blue gain.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The image processing device for an endoscope according to claim 1, wherein said ~~gain-adjustor~~ first white balance section amplifies the red and green gain.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The image processing device for an endoscope according to claim 1, wherein said ~~gain-adjustor~~ first white balance section calculates an intensity of color elements using the red and blue or green color signals and sets gain adjustments amounts.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The image processing device for an endoscope according to claim 2, wherein said further signal generator forms a blue signal by adjusting the gain of a prescribed color signal.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The image processing device for an endoscope according to claim 1, comprising a further control section which inputs information relating to the type of said endoscope connected thereto, and controls said ~~adjusting-means~~ white balance sections on the basis of this information.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The image processing device for an endoscope according to claim 2, comprising a further control section for controlling said further signal generator.

9. **(Original)** The image processing device for an endoscope according to claim 3, wherein said gain attenuation is in the range of 15% to 30%.

10. (Original) The image processing device for an endoscope according to claim 4, wherein said gain amplification is in the range of 18% to 42%.

11. (Previously Presented) The image processing device for an endoscope according to claim 6, wherein the prescribed color signal which is gain adjusted by said further signal generator is a green signal.

12. (Original) The image processing device for an endoscope according to claim 10, wherein said gain adjustment is attenuated to 40%.

13. - 24. (Cancelled)